

THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

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THE COMING CAMPAIGN—THE SITUATION AND PREPARATIONS.

From the Nashville Union, (Abolition.)

Considerations are now inducing a concentration of forces such as was never before witnessed on this continent; and which has seldom found a parallel in Europe, since the era of civilization. There exists a determination on both sides to make the coming struggle decisive; to make the next battle a Waterloo to the defeated army.

Each party has its ablest commander in the field at the head of the main force; so that in Virginia, neither will have much advantage on that score; but in the West, in the auxiliary department, we have decidedly a superior class of generals. Sherman, Thomas and Logan are far the superiors, in every respect, of Joe Johnston and his lieutenants; but with reference to the centre, a comparison between Schofield and Longstreet, we fear, will be disadvantageous to us.

Thus the matter stands at this time. Each army being reinforced as rapidly and as effectually as possible; each determined to fight to the last, and, if possible, annihilate its antagonist.—The eyes of the nation are turned toward the combatants with the deepest interest, and well they may be.

The result of the defeat of the Confederates would be to reduce their territories to the State of South Carolina, a portion of Georgia and Florida. Mississippi and Alabama will be entirely abandoned; civil organizations will spring up, and the States will return to their old places in the Union, but regenerated and loyalized.

The effect upon the North would likewise be decisive. Government securities would rise; gold would take a tremendous descent; foreign exchange would, of course, keep pace with the precious metals; and above all the cry of the copperheads would be effectually hushed.

Should Grant, however, be defeated, the result would be that gold would rise; American securities fall; another draft would be ordered and new energies be called forth; the copperhead faction would grow bold; would do much to give aid and comfort to the rebels; and a general depression would exist throughout the loyal States.

But we do not apprehend such a result. True, the rebels are on the defensive, and the advance must be made by our armies, which will give them great advantage; but we have no idea that this will suffice to give them victory.

We are inclined to believe the campaign will not open before May; but, when it does open, there will be a shock of arms which will leave the bloody struggles of Gettysburg and Chickamauga far in the background.

THE NEW CONGRESS.

The day is now close at hand for the assemblage of the new Congress. Some of the delegations in the House have been greatly changed, and in some cases not for the better; but we still feel well assured that the new body will be found to be one to whom the interests of the country may be safely entrusted, and that in every needful step for the prosecution of the war there will be hearty support given to the administration.

One of the new members is the Hon. W. C. Rives, of Virginia. Opposed as we have been in former times to this gentleman, we cannot withhold our hearty admiration of his course during the war. It has been patriotic and elevated—worthy of him and of the district which, without reference to former party divisions, unanimously called him from his retirement to the public counsels. All will desire to see Mr. Rives placed in some position where his great abilities and long experience will best qualify him for usefulness to the country. He would do honor to any position in the gift of the body. We hear of no opposition to the present speaker, and presume there will be none. As a contest for this the first position in the House is not to be expected and hardly to be desired; it would seem, consequently, a fitting assignment for the speakers to appoint Mr. Rives at the head of the Committee on Foreign Relations. His profound acquaintance with the principles of public law and his ripe experience in diplomatic positions give him a claim to the post which no other Representative can possibly contest. It is, we hope, barely sufficient to suggest this, for we cannot not imagine that any one could doubt for a moment the propriety of the selection. The position may become at any day one of the first consequence, and Mr. Rives is of all others the proper man to fill it.—Rich. Enquirer.

PROTEST FROM BEAST BUTLER.—It is said that Gen. Butler has written a letter to the Secretary of War at Washington, in which he concludes as follows:

"If the arrangements proposed be carried out, it would have the effect of making me a mere recording secretary for the will of Maj. Gen. W. F. Smith, who would be real commander. To this I cannot submit. The office of civil Mayor of Old Point Comfort is not the sort of service for which I was mustered in. I therefore most respectfully demand, either to be relieved altogether from my present position, or to have, under the General in Chief, supreme control and direction of any military movements having their base within the limits of my department."

IMPORTANT PROCLAMATION.—Lieut. General Polk has issued an important proclamation to all the soldiers in his Department absent from their command without leave. He offers pardon to all who will report for duty within ten days of their knowledge of the existence of the proclamation. Paroled and exchanged prisoners are included. The offer of amnesty will not extend to any person beyond the 20th of May, nor to any man who has joined the enemy, or to officers who may have deserted their colors. Gen. Polk also assures soldiers in his Department, belonging to other armies, that they avail themselves of this act of amnesty and report to this place for duty, he will intercede with their commanders in their behalf.

ANOTHER ROYAL JOKE.—Our North Mississippi correspondent, says the *Mississippian*, he has been told by a gentleman who was lately in Washington city, that in a conversation between the Royal Ape and his Secretary of the Navy, on the subject of raising the monitor sunk in Charleston harbor, by means of a "coffer dam," Old Abe told him he had "no faith in it—not a single grain." It reminded him of his neighbor's cow in Illinois, which he saw swallow a thistle, and *coffer dam head off*.

THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

Vol. 1.]

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1864.

[No. 9.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S APPEAL.

In the London *Times* appears the following remarkable communication, which, by unanimous consent, is attributed to Queen Victoria. It is looked upon as a direct reply to certain articles in English journal's relative to Her Majesty's disappearance from public life—now only temporary—and to the course which she has marked out for herself in future. The communication is remarkable, moreover, as being the first instance in English history in which the occupant of the throne has held direct intercourse with the public press of the country.

(From the London *Times*)
THE QUEEN.

An erroneous idea seems generally to prevail, and has lately found frequent expression in the newspapers, that the Queen is about to resume the place in society which she occupied before her great affliction; that is, that she about again to hold levees and drawing rooms in person, and to appear as before at court balls, concerts, &c. This idea cannot be too explicitly contradicted.

The Queen heartily appreciates the desire of her subjects to see her, and whatever she can do to gratify them in this loyal and affectionate wish she will do. Whenever any real object is to be attained by her appearing on public occasions, any national interest to be promoted, or anything to be encouraged which is for the good of her people, Her Majesty will not shrink, as she has not shrank, from any personal sacrifice or exertion, however painful.

But there are other and higher duties than those of mere representation which are now thrown upon the Queen, alone and unassisted—duties which she cannot neglect without injury to the public service, which weigh increasingly upon her, overwhelming her with work and anxiety.

The Queen has labored conscientiously to discharge these duties till her health and strength, already shaken by the utter and ever abiding desolation which has taken the place of her former happiness, have been seriously impaired.

The call upon her to undergo, in addition, the fatigues of those mere state ceremonies which can be well performed by other members of her family, is to ask her to run the risk of entirely disabling herself for the discharge of those other duties which cannot be neglected without a serious injury to the public interests.

The Queen will, however, do what she can, in the manner least trying to her health, strength and spirits, to meet the loyal wishes of her subjects; to afford that support and countenance to society, and to give that encouragement to trade which is desired of her.

More the Queen cannot do; and more the good feeling of her people will surely not exact from her.

The Newbern correspondent of the New York *Advertiser* says:

The rebel ram at Plymouth, North Carolina, has had the effect of not only doing great damage to our shipping there, but has precipitated movements materially. The news we receive from there is conflicting, yet painful. The ram of which much has been said, and precaution taken to guard against, ran past Fort Gray on Monday night, after the moon had disappeared, on the opposite bank of the Roanoke river, and thus eluded the vigilance of our gunboats. This rebel monster had no steam on, but floated down with the current. After leaving the range of Fort Gray her engine was set in motion, and, bow on, she pushed for our gunboats, and succeeded in the sinking of the gunboat Southfield, a ferry boat carrying a battery of six heavy guns. The Southfield and Miami, flagship of Captain Flusser, were chained together to present a more formidable front to the ram, and to keep the other afloat in case one was disabled. The ram shot past the Miami and bore her prow into the quarter of the Southfield with great force. The crumpling of the sawlike prow of the rebel ram among the timber was fearful, and the orifice created thereby was probably ten to twelve feet. The Southfield sank in ten minutes after being attacked.

A last shot before sinking was fired by the crew of the Southfield into the rebel ram, by running the one hundred-pounder Parrott forward—the stern of the boat having sunk first—but the sides of the rebel gunboat being only half a length from him. The shell fired was a ten second fuse, which struck the roof of the ram, rebounded and hit Capt. Flusser. In striking him the shell exploded and killed the gallant officer instantly, almost tearing him to pieces.

The Miami retired below Plymouth, having succeeded in picking up a number of the officers and crew of the Southfield. Captain French of the last named vessel, was also on board. The commanding officer of the Miami considered it best to withdraw, as the men were perfectly frantic at the fall of their commander, whom they dearly loved. Of course, the rebel ram had full sway for the time being, but steer clear of General Wessels' two hundred pounder.

A demand for the surrender of Plymouth was made by the rebel commander, under flag of truce, to Brigadier General Wessels, giving him half an hour to make up his mind, and volunteering the information that he (the rebel commander) had twelve thousand troops opposed to him. Gen. Wessels replied: "I do not need it if a second: my mind is made up; if you want Plymouth come and take it." This was the last heard from them. General Wessels is a fine soldier, and every one has the utmost confidence in him.

Every house in Plymouth was riddled by the shells, the inhabitants having been sent to Roanoke Island. Gen. Peck ordered reinforcements to Plymouth the moment he received news of the attack. They have doubtless failed to reach that place, owing to the presence of the ram at the mouth of the Roanoke. This ram draws nine feet of water. Her hull is fifteen inches out of water. She carries four guns and is built much like the Merrimac. It is reported that she can make seven knots, but this is doubted.

A dispatch from New York says: A letter from Newbern on the 22d, after confirming the capture of Plymouth, has the following: "It is reported that the enemy have left Plymouth, and are now moving on Washington and Newbern. The rebel ram on the Neuse, at Kinston, has moved towards Newbern, and is expected to make an attack in a day or two. The rebel rams at Plymouth are expected to act in connection with other rams in the attack on Washington and Newbern. She carries three small and one 64-pounder."

From the Charlotte *Advertiser*.
BRIG. GEN. WEITZEL.
CHARLOTTE, April 27th, 1864.

EDITOR BULLETIN:—I was rejoiced this morning to learn that Brig. Gen. Weitzel was the Yankee officer captured at Plymouth.

I was at New Orleans when it fell into the hands of Beast Butler. Weitzel was a Lieutenant in his army, and soon proved himself worthy of his command. In a few weeks after taking possession of the city, Lieut. Weitzel was appointed "Assistant Military Commandant and Acting Major of New Orleans."

Another other acts, I heard of one that shows the character of the man. Putting on citizen's dress, he went with a man, who proved to be a traitor to us, and was introduced in such a manner that they thought him friend of the South, and, of course, spoke very freely of their surroundings. Upon information gained in that way he tried to arrest, as a spy, son of that family who had "run the blockade" to visit his friends. Happily he failed.

He was a Lieutenant in the United States Engineers corps, and, I think, was for some time the Engineer in charge when the New Marine Hospital was built.

As Engineer he had been engaged in surveying lands on the Lafourche for the Government. In that way he became acquainted with the topography of the country, and with many of the planters in that section of the State. For that reason he was made a Brigadier General of volunteers, and placed in charge of the expedition fitted out for the destruction of that rich and beautiful section of Louisiana. It was his soldiers that laid waste that country, pillaged and destroyed the property of those who in days past had treated him with the hospitality and courtesy due a gentleman. It was his soldiers that plundered and destroyed the plantations of Gen. Bragg and Gen. Taylor. It was by his orders, (while organizing his brigade, near Greenville,) that Judge Butte and family were turned out of their beautiful residence, which was immediately converted into a hospital for his Yankee thieves.

These and many other acts of like character, have the people of New Orleans and Louisiana suffered at his hands, because they would not bow down and worship the Ape at Washington, and the Beast he had set up in New Orleans.

I hope the authorities at Richmond will take care that his passion for plunder and devastation shall not again be gratified at the expense of the people of the Confederacy.

Very Respectfully,
J. C. KEER,
Ex Librarian, Lycéeum Library.

YANKEE STORIES FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

The following are a sample of the stories put forth by the Yankee papers of affairs in North Carolina: The Governor's Council, convened at Raleigh, had decided calling the Legislature together in extra session, fearing that it would array the State against the Confederacy.

The Henderson, North Carolina *Times*, published in the western part of the State, advises the people to keep out of the Confederate army and stay home to defend themselves.

The Raleigh *Progress* says that people are starving at the hotels at a cost of fifty dollars per day, and many of the best families are on half rations.

The Wilmington *Journal* is gloomy at the prospect of affairs in the Confederacy, and deplores the sad lack of food and the bad condition of the coming crop.

The Fayetteville *Carolinian* laments the high prices and lack of *bread*, but takes comfort in the announcement that a hundred Springfield rifles are unused in the armory there for the Confederate service.

SOUTHERN PAPERS IN FRANCE.

Mej. Henry St. Paul has published a pamphlet, addressed to Hon. Lucien J. Dupre, Representative in Congress from Louisiana, in reference to the establishment of a Southern paper in France in the interests of the Confederacy.

The Mobile *Tribune*, referring to the proposed enterprise, thinks it is too late, and adds, "if it had been begun one year ago, and carried on with the vigor suggested by Major St. Paul, we believe that to-day there would have been a sentiment on the continent in our behalf that would have demanded interposition in the struggle. The writer shows the greater influence which such a journal would have in France than in England. We have a paper in London, but it seems to us to be conducted without spirit and a true knowledge of its mission. It has, however, done some service in presenting facts, official papers, &c., which, without its aid, might never have reached the people of England.

FROM THE RAPIDAN.—We learn, (says the Richmond *Sentinel*), that the two armies are drawn up in line of battle, and that skirmishing, preliminary to a general engagement, has occurred. The position of the confronting armies, the time they have to prepare, and the fine weather, renders a battle most imminent at any moment. It is thought by some that Grant, while keeping up a show of attack in front, intends attempting a flank movement on Lee's left, and that he will be successful.

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THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1864.

JOHN D. HYMAN, EDITOR.

FOR GOVERNOR:

Z. B. VANCE,
OF BUNCOMBE.

CHANGE OF TERMS.—In consequence of the high prices of material, and everything necessary to carry on our establishment, we change our terms from this date as follows:

Daily paper, 1 month,	\$ 3 00
" 3 months,	8 00
" 6 months,	15 00
Weekly paper, 3 months,	3 00
" 6 months,	5 00

Always to be paid in advance, and paper stopped when the time paid for expires.

THE TRUE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.—The supremacy of the civil over military law.

A speedy repeal of the act suspending the writ of habeas corpus.

A quiet submission to all laws, whether good or bad, while we remain upon our state books.

No reconstruction, or submission, but perpetual independence.

An unbroke front to the common enemy; but timely and repeated negotiations for PEACE by the proper authorities.

No separate State action through a Convention; no counter revolution; no combined resistance to the government.

Opposition to despotism in every form, and the preservation of Republican institutions in all their purity.

HOW TO SEND US MONEY.—Never send by MAIL when you can send by EXPRESS. All money sent by Express at our risk and expense. Those sending us money by mail must do so at their own risk.

We regret very much that we have not been able as yet to make arrangements for obtaining the telegraphic news. We supposed we could make the arrangements by telegraphing to the proper officers of the Association, but we have had to make a formal application in writing to a gentleman in Mobile, and it will be some days yet before we can hear from him. We trust the delay will not be long. We deem this explanation due to our readers.

Our "Model Governor."

A question has been raised as to the period at which Gov. VANCE deserted the Conservative party, if he has done so at all!

Now it certainly had not occurred when Mr. READE made his famous speech in the Senate in January last. Mr. READE is in the very odour of sanctity with all Conservatives. Every word made use of by him in that speech was thoroughly weighed before he employed it. In that speech he spoke of Gov. VANCE in the highest terms, and cited with great gusto and approbation the title of "model Governor," which some enthusiastic friend had applied to him. Now "model Governor" is the very aptest synonyme for "sound Conservative." All good Conservatives will admit that. We can hope no more from the best Conservative in our ranks, than that he should make a "model Governor." Now about the 1st day of last February, Judge READE, then in his place in the Confederate Congress, giving expression in that presence for the first time to the thoughts of the Conservative party of North Carolina, termed Gov. VANCE the "model Governor." Moreover, the North Carolina Standard immediately published that speech with hearty endorsement of it all, and so did the Progress. It should be mentioned as additional proof that neither the Fayetteville Observer, nor any other supporter of Mr. DAVIS's administration in this State, had anything favorable to say of that speech. The praise was almost entirely among ourselves—a treat from the Conservative party to their Governor, gracefully gotten up by our Representative in the Senate. It is true that the Progress, then an "independent paper," as it claimed to be, sat down with us to the feast, contributing thereto some viands of its own, but it is almost impossible now—a-days to have a Conservative meeting without some third person—some outsider—intrude and makes himself prominent, (Conservatism is so popular,) and perhaps it would savor of exclusiveness, if we represent as very considerable the deduction to be made from this tribute to Gov. VANCE, because of its being participated in by one who was not a Conservative. We shall make bold then to declare, that on the 1st of February, 1864, Gov. VANCE was in the very zenith of his career as a Conservative.

We come to the 4th March, 1864, when Mr. HOLDEN's card appeared, announcing him a candidate for Governor. So far as the readers of the Standard could see, nothing had appeared in that paper in retraction of its endorsement of Judge READE's speech, a month before. In the meantime, nothing had appeared from Governor VANCE, except his speech at Wilkesboro'. That speech was mainly directed toward a result which would occur before the election in August, to wit: to persuading the people that he was right in not immediately convening the Legislature to consider of the propriety of calling a Convention—to secede from the Confederacy. The August election could not remedy that. It is said Gov. VANCE mistook the purpose of the proposed Convention. If this be so, public men have been pardoned, over and often, for much graver mistakes. How then can it be, that one who was, up to that moment, a "model Governor" by such mistake forfeited his title to be considered a Conservative?—The charge is preposterous. Nor can it be said that Gov. VANCE disdained himself by some of the high-sounding language, or the anecdotes, in which his Wilkesboro' speech abounded. No sane man thinks of weighing in golden scales the expletives or figures of speech in a stump oration. No man, who ever made five speeches of that sort, which were effective, could stand such a test, nor are the friends of Gov. VANCE willing that he should be subjected to it.—There is then nothing in that speech reasonably to be relied on as affecting Gov. VANCE's Conservatism. Nor did Mr. HOLDEN in his card allege that there was. Moreover, the Progress, which is now Mr. HOLDEN's organ, but which was "independent," after a careful perusal and consideration of that speech, avowed that it would take no part in the campaign, and that its editor would have taken great pleasure in supporting either of the two candidates against anybody else. It spoke of the campaign as one entirely personal, and regretted that they should oppose each other.

Mr. HOLDEN's organ then being judge, there was upon the 4th of March, 1864, and for some days afterwards, no cause whatever for a disruption of the Conservative party by Mr. Holden's offering himself in opposition to a gentleman whom courtesy and usage entitled to a second term of office. That or-

gan being judge, there was then no ground whatever for charging that Gov. VANCE had deserted his party.

We come to enquire, whether he has deserted it since the 4th of March last. Since that time he has visited the army and addressed it. A correspondent of the Progress, who gave the only account we have seen of those speeches, says that he denounced nobody in them: spoke kindly of everybody in North Carolina. And we learn from gentlemen who heard all his speeches in Virginia, that Gov. VANCE expressed himself as decidedly opposed to the act suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*. These, therefore, will not be relied upon as proving desertion.

The Progress, however, is disposed to make great matter of the fact, that a number of the secessionists of February, 1861, threaten to support Gov. VANCE against Mr. HOLDEN. So far as this disposition of these gentlemen indicates repentance and a better mind, it is a cause for sincere congratulation. Formerly, when a great Whig apostle went over to the Democracy, or, *vice versa*, all the papers upon the gaining side proclaimed the conversion as a sign, that "truth is mighty and will prevail!" But if Mr. McRae or Mr. Avery express his willingness to support our Conservative Governor, we are not to weep over the returning sinner, or allow him any place of repentance! If the conductors of a paper, whose predecessor made itself merry—we will not say ridiculous—by criticising the personal appearance of Gov. VANCE two years ago, now pronounce him a "wonderful man," although he has trodden no step backward in the interval, Conservatives are not to quote this as additional evidence in behalf of their "model Governor!" That these gentlemen can never support a man with the principles of Gov. VANCE, is some evidence of a return to reason. It is true that some "originals" nauseate us a great deal by their forwardness. Village and cross-road politicians, who have worn out the seats of many breaches during this war in sustaining the administration of Mr. Davis under the shades of elms, are now taking Gov. VANCE also under their pernicious patronage. Something no doubt must be pardoned them. They have talked so much during the war, that they cannot well help it, and not being broken wined from double-quicking, or other military exercises, their lungs and wind pipes are in good health.

However, if a mixture of resolutions for DAVIS and VANCE passed by mixed assemblies of secessionists and Conservatives be any ground for charging Gov. VANCE with desertion, the charge should have been made earlier. For our present Conservative Legislature adopted unanimously certain resolutions introduced by Judge PERSON in 1862, in which President DAVIS and Gov. VANCE were praised in the highest terms, and cited with great gusto and approbation the title of "model Governor," which some enthusiastic friend had applied to him. Now "model Governor" is the very aptest synonyme for "sound Conservative." All good Conservatives will admit that. We can hope no more from the best Conservative in our ranks, than that he should make a "model Governor." Now about the 1st day of last February, Judge READE, then in his place in the Confederate Congress, giving expression in that presence for the first time to the thoughts of the Conservative party of North Carolina, termed Gov. VANCE the "model Governor." Moreover, the North Carolina Standard immediately published that speech with hearty endorsement of it all, and so did the Progress. It should be mentioned as additional proof that neither the Fayetteville Observer, nor any other supporter of Mr. DAVIS's administration in this State, had anything favorable to say of that speech. The praise was almost entirely among ourselves—a treat from the Conservative party to their Governor, graciously gotten up by our Representative in the Senate. It is true that the Progress, then an "independent paper," as it claimed to be, sat down with us to the feast, contributing thereto some viands of its own, but it is almost impossible now—a-days to have a Conservative meeting without some third person—some outsider—intrude and makes himself prominent, (Conservatism is so popular,) and perhaps it would savor of exclusiveness, if we represent as very considerable the deduction to be made from this tribute to Gov. VANCE, because of its being participated in by one who was not a Conservative. We shall make bold then to declare, that on the 1st of February, 1864, Gov. VANCE was in the very zenith of his career as a Conservative.

We submit, that there is no shadow of truth in this charge. No time can be shown as that at which the desertion took place. Consequently, our "model Governor" is still a "model Governor"—that is, a "true Conservative"—Mr. HOLDEN and his organ to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Progress says it adopts Mr. STEPHENS's speech as its platform and that it is "willing to rise or fall in such company." This declaration was made co-temporaneously with its publication of Mr. STEPHENS's speech. In the same number of that paper, (Weekly Progress, 10th April,) in a very long article defining its position, the Progress distinctly took the ground that it was not only opposed to the late act of Congress suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, but that it was in favor of so amending the Constitution of the Confederate States as to deprive Congress of the power to suspend the writ under any circumstances. While it is not our purpose to say whether we would favor such amendment, or not, we wish to show that Mr. STEPHENS is in favor of the Constitution remaining as it is in that particular.—While he pronounces the late act of Congress, suspending the Great Writ of Right, "impolitic, unconstitutional, and dangerous to public liberty," as we do, at the same time he emphatically declares:

"This act is unconstitutional, not because Congress has not power to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, but because they have no power to do the thing aimed at in this attempted exercise of it. Congress can suspend the privilege of the writ—the power is clear and unquestioned—neither is the power, as it stands, objectionable."

There can be no well-grounded objection to it. It is, under existing restrictions, a wise power. In time of war, in cases of rebellion or invasion, it may be necessary to exercise it—the public safety may require it. I am not prepared to say that the public safety may not require it now."

We wish to enquire of the Progress, whether, in adopting Mr. STEPHENS's speech as its "platform," it adopted the passage we have just quoted? And we would enquire further of the Progress, as to the only organ, save the Standard, that he has in the State, whether Mr. HOLDEN is in favor of so amending the Constitution as to deprive Congress of the power of suspending the writ in future? We trust our neighbor may not find it inconsistent with his duty to the public and to Mr. HOLDEN to give us the desired information.

Z. B. HOLDEN is for a Convention in North Carolina to "take her own affairs in her own hands," and negotiate single handed with the LINCOLN Government. At the same time he claims to stand on the Brown & STEPHENS platform. Now, these Conservative statements have not only never advocated separate State action, as urged by Mr. HOLDEN, but they are decidedly opposed to it, as disorganizing, ill-judged, unwise in the extreme, not to say unconstitutional, and more likely to postpone than to hasten peace. As the Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer expresses it, it is an "editorial flank movement in the direction of peace." Gov. BROWN and Mr. STEPHENS both disclaim such a peace programme, and they are as wide from HOLDEN, in many other respects, as the poles are apart.

We are glad to learn that Gen. HOLMES has determined to detail to remain at home for agricultural purposes all persons between 45 and 50 liable to enrollment under the late act of Congress. That or-

Washington is Ours!

Such are the glorious tidings from below, and we chronicle the event with unalloyed pleasure and gratification. Plymouth is ours—Washington is ours—and would that we could say, Newbern is ours! But we can afford be patient and wait for the official announcement, which we may reasonably hope will be made in due season.

The news is, that Washington has been evacuated by the enemy, and that Gen. Hoke has taken quiet possession. We have heard no particulars. But the news is considered altogether reliable. "Shout—shout—the joyous notes of freedom!" Huzza, for Gen. Hoke! Three times three cheers for the gallant and glorious North Carolina boys!

P. S.—Since the above was in type we have received the following private telegram from a friend at Wilson:

WILSON, 21 May, 1864.

To JNO. D. HYMAN: Washington has been evacuated. The Yankees commenced evacuating the place Thursday evening. This information is perfectly reliable. Fortifications and everything valuable destroyed.

Official Vote of the 7th District

For Leach,	4,058
" Foster,	2,420
" Ramsay,	48
Total,	6,960
Leach over Foster,	1638
Majority over both,	1156

We wish to state in this connection, and we know whereof we speak, that Col. Leach is not a Holdene, and who thus charges does the Honorable gentleman gross injustice.

In view of the slow and tardy transmission of news, frequently of an important character, from Asheville, the head-quarters of the military department of Western North Carolina, to this city, it has been suggested that a branch of the signal corps service be established between Asheville and Salisbury, thus putting Asheville in communication with Raleigh within a few hours instead of three days as it is by mail. If the War Department will not establish this line of signals, we suggest that the importance of the subject may properly claim the attention of Gov. VANCE as Commander-in-Chief of the State forces.

Congress.

The first session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States commenced in Richmond on yesterday. The House of Representatives will hold its session in the Hall of the House of Delegates, which is being put in order for the purpose. The Senate will meet in the old chamber, but will afterwards sit in the chamber usually occupied by the Virginia Senate.

Military Directory.

We have been furnished from the Adjutant General's Office of the State a complete list of the field officers of the North Carolina Troops, together with the Division and Brigade commanders of the various Regiments, which we publish for the benefit of all who may desire information thus furnished.

We learn that about one hundred of the wounded from Plymouth, arrived in this city on Sunday, and are now at the Fair Ground Hospital. Of course it is not necessary to suggest to the ladies that their kind offices would be very acceptable.

TREMENDOUS FIRE—HEAVY LOSS.

We have only time to state this morning, says the Wilmington Journal of yesterday, that a fire broke out last night at about half-past 12 o'clock among the cotton stored on the wharves on the west side of the river. The offices of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad were destroyed, together with a number of freight cars belonging to a Georgia road.

All the sheds at the ferry and every building and all the cotton south of the ferry, including the Cotton Press and B. W. Beery's Marine Rail Way.

The loss is heavy. Generally estimated at from six to ten million dollars.

How the fire originated, of course is not known. It was no doubt the work of incendiaries. —State Journal.

STOLEN GOODS RETURNED.

Gov. VANCE has succeeded in recovering all the planks of his platform, lately appropriated by certain parties in this State and elsewhere. He has not left a solitary plank upon which his opponents can stand except an old plank upon which North Carolina jumped in 1861, and drifted into a most fearful war. This same old plank has been adopted by those who cut loose the moorings by which it was held to the river, by reason of which we are now engaged in war No. 1. If we adopt this old plank, newly painted to please the eye, we will assuredly drift into war No. 2. This would be the result, most unquestionably, but we are happy to say that in this region, this plank does not present an inviting appearance. The man who adopts it up here, will never touch bottom. We profess to know public sentiment, and assure our readers generally that this is a fact. Gov. VANCE will carry his own planks through, but even he would go down, down, if he were to fix it in his platform. —Daily Carolinian.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.—We reported yesterday a sharp fight at Carter's Station in East Tennessee between the Yankees under Major-Winter and our cavalry under Gen. JACKSON. We learned last night that after the fight referred to, in which the enemy were repulsed, they commenced a hurried retreat, and at the latest accounts had gotten below Jonesboro', and were being closely pursued by our forces, who were picking up prisoners in small numbers along the route of their advance. The Yankees burned all the bridges on their retreat, and as hardly were they being pressed that they abandoned all the property they had stolen while advancing.

Our information leads us to hope that we may have good news from that quarter in a day or two. —Lynchburg Republican, 30th ult.

The Conservative and the North Carolinian are the only papers, who advocate the claims of Gov. VANCE, that have published Mr. Stephens' speech. The Progress is the only paper that supports Mr. Holden, that has published Mr. Stephens' speech! Carolinian.

AVERRILL COMING.—There were flying rumors about the streets, after the arrival of the Tennessee cars, last night, that Averill is advancing on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad again. In what particular locality he is expected to make his debut the reports did not state. It is possible these rumors may have some foundation, but we feel assured, if true, Gen. Breckinridge will see to it that the raiders are not caught him napping. We are inclined to the opinion, however, that the story is a sensational one. —Lynchburg Republican.

FROM TENNESSEE.—A friend thus writes from West Tennessee to his wife in Virginia: "There are few Yankees here, outside of Memphis. They have all left to join Meade. Those I have met state that it is intended to take Richmond at all hazards. An army of two hundred and seventy-five thousand men is to command success."

For the Conservative.

WILSON, N. C., April 26th, 1864.

In the issue of the *Confederate* of the 11th instant, there was a notice of the Wilson County Meeting, in which gross injustice was done to the principal actors in that meeting. The next day the writer saw the editor of the *Confederate* at Court, and called his attention to the article, and pointed out wherein the injustice lay. He promised to make the correction as soon as he went back to Raleigh. At the same time the writer promised to send a copy of the resolutions offered, with a full explanation of the whole affair, which he promised to publish. According to promise, the writer immediately forwarded the resolutions of the majority of the committee, with the comments explanatory, and no notice has been taken of it, and no allusion since made to the Wilson County Meeting. Will you be so good as to publish the resolutions which I offered, so that the people may see where the fault was, and to whom the "blame" ought to attach for the failure of the meeting?

Soon after the announcement of Mr. Holden as candidate for Governor notices of a public meeting were posted in every direction, to unite in a mass meeting to distinguish of party, to unite in a mass meeting to applaud Gov. VANCE, and nominate him for reelection. The old friends, and now his only true friends in this section, were more prominent in getting up the meeting. The day before the proposed meeting a set of resolutions was drafted by one of the Governor's friends, and submitted, as an act of courtesy, to some of his old opponents, but who were then professing great friendship for him, for the reason that they had said they were going into the meeting to have it an unanimous thing for VANCE. All to whom these resolutions were submitted approved them but two.

The committee to draft resolutions was arranged before the meeting, by two of the old opponents of VANCE and one of his old friends, and it was taken as equally as it could be from both parties. The old VANCE men being most active in the meeting—nominated a moderate "Conservative" chairman, who was unanimously elected. As soon as he took his seat, and before the meeting was properly organized, a destructive motion an adjournment of the meeting—a *move for harmony*—which was voted down. A moderate, destructive was appointed secretary. Then came the appointment of the committee for resolutions, which embraced those previously arranged, and a few others suggested by the meeting in place of some absent of the organized selection. Indeed, there seemed a spirit of fairness on the part of the Conservatives unparalleled in such meetings. The resolutions were submitted to the committee, who agreed to their adoption by a vote of nine to three. Thirteen were on the committee, all present but one.

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